

State of Vermont

House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

Concurrent House Resolution

H.C.R. 191

House concurrent resolution honoring Dr. Fred Holmes and documentary filmmaker Bess O'Brien for their efforts to address youth opiate addiction in Vermont

Offered by: Representatives Keenan of St. Albans City, McCarthy of St. Albans City, Beyor of Highgate, Branagan of Georgia, Cole of Burlington, Connor of Fairfield, Consejo of Sheldon, Dickinson of St. Albans Town, Pearce of Richford, Pugh of South Burlington, Russell of Rutland City, Savage of Swanton, and Weed of Enosburgh

Offered by: Senators Collins and McAllister

Whereas, when Dr. Fred Holmes completed his pediatric residency at the University of Vermont, there was no instruction in substance abuse treatment, and

Whereas, he established Mousetrap Pediatrics in St. Albans, which has expanded to include field offices throughout Northwestern Vermont, and

Whereas, in October 2006, an 18-year-old patient walked into the doctor's office seeking help to end his opiate addiction, and Dr. Fred Holmes was clueless about how to treat the young man, and

Whereas, Dr. Fred Holmes initiated a self-education process reviewing professional literature and consulting experts to acquaint himself with this real-world, and unfortunately growing, problem, and

Whereas, he has developed an innovative medication and therapeutic regimen to treat opiate-addicted youths, and his office over the last four and one-half years has received over 4,000 inquiries from youths and parents seeking help, and

Whereas, an important element of Dr. Fred Holmes's treatment program is extended conversations with his patients to build a relationship of trust, and he finds these conversations result in real therapeutic value, and

Whereas, Kingdom County Productions cofounder and documentary filmmaker, Bess O'Brien, and Dr. Fred Holmes have collaborated on a community film entitled *The Hungry Heart*, which documents the story of youth opiate addiction in Franklin County, and

Whereas, the film, which features patients of Dr. Fred Holmes relating their personal experiences, is intended as an inducement for other young persons and their families to tell their own stories and to show Vermonters that opiate addiction involves actual individuals, and not mere statistics, and

Whereas, *The Hungry Heart* has been screened in communities throughout Vermont and is being shown in the State House today, January 21, 2014, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Dr. Fred Holmes and documentary filmmaker Bess O'Brien for their efforts to address youth opiate addiction in Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Dr. Fred Holmes and Bess O'Brien.